



MISSISSIPPI RIVER REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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*Greg Flogstad, Onalaska, WI
Director*

Scott Hassett, Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
101 South Webster Street, Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

Dear Secretary Hassett:

I am writing to inform you of our organization's support of the Wisconsin Brownfields Coalition's (WBC) - the Departments of Natural Resources, Commerce and Administration - application to EPA for a federal brownfields clean-up grant. The Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission, representing Buffalo, Crawford, Jackson, La Crosse, Monroe, Pierce, Pepin, Trempealeau and Vernon Counties formally agree to become a member of the Wisconsin Brownfields Coalition for the purpose of applying for the EPA Brownfields funds at our December 10, 2003 bimonthly meeting. This grant would be administered by DNR as a revolving loan fund (RLF) that would provide sub-grants and no-to-low interest loans to Wisconsin communities in order to help them clean up their brownfields.

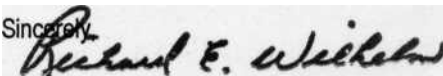
Brownfields are a significant obstacle in regaining Wisconsin's environmental and economic health. These abandoned, idle or underused properties can face many hurdles to redevelopment, and the first of these is the stigma of contamination. The WBC's grant would be used to clean up environmental contamination in areas where pollutants have been identified as a problem. After cleanup, brownfields can be redeveloped so that growth occurs within "downtown" communities rather than sprawling into green spaces on the edges of towns.

The RLF application by the Wisconsin Brownfields Coalition is a good fit with our regional planning goals for several reasons:

- It supports sound land use management.
- It helps local governments take advantage of existing infrastructures.
- It helps protect citizens from environmental pollutants.
- It helps urban centers market themselves as healthy and productive places to work and live.
- Our region's communities have already benefited from brownfield funding programs and there still is additional need for this funding.

The Mississippi River Regional Planning Commission wishes your grant application success and looks forward to working with you and our communities on this project.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 608-785-9396.

Sincerely,


Richard Wilhelm
Chairman

cc: Darsi Foss, DNR

A Nine County Economic Development District Providing Assistance To Local Governments

- ***Land Use Planning • Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances • Transportation Planning • Economic Development Planning***
- ***GIS Mapping • Recreation Planning • Revolving Loan Fund Administration • Grant Writing • Socioeconomic Data Dissemination***
- ***Assist Local Interests In Responding To State and Federal Programs • Advisory Service on Local Planning Issues***
- ***Coordinating Agency for Programs and Activities • Public Policy Advocacy on Issues Affecting our Region***